

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091386

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT:DIUGUID PIECE IN WASHINGTON POST 4/21

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE ON DIUGUID PIECE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN TODAY. NO QUESTIONS ASKED AT BRIEFING.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE SECRETARY CANCELLED HIS CHILE TRIP
BECAUSE THE JUNTA FAILED TO TAKE MEASURES IN THE HUMAN
RIGHTS AREA?

A: IN ANNOUNCING THE SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP LAST WEEK WE
STATED THAT THE PRESS OF WORLD EVENTS REQUIRED THE
SECRETARY TO CURTAIL HIS ORIGINAL PLANS, WHICH INCLUDED
VISITS TO BOTH CHILE AND PERU, AND THAT THE SECRETARY VERY
MUCH LOOKS FORWARD TO VISITING THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH
AMERICA LATER IN THE YEAR.

AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE, THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES KNOW THE
IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE ABUSE
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PAGE 02 STATE 091386

OF HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE.

THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

Q: HAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY COME RECENTLY TO THE U.S. AND MET WITH THE SECRETARY OR OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE CIVIL RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE?

A: IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS RECEIVE FOREIGN VISITORS OF DIVERSE POINTS OF VIEW AND POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT FURTHER.

Q: CAN YOU SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO WHETHER THE SECRETARY, OR THE DEPARTMENT, TOOK ANY PART IN EFFORTS TO SECURE THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF FORMER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR LETELIER?

A: I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT THE SECRETARY HIMSELF HAD TO SAY ON THIS MATTER AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ON FEBRUARY 3. KISSINGER

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